

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1533

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS DECEMBER 31, 1998

TAGS: PFOR, PN, UNSC

SUBJ: SC MEETING IN PANAMA - WALDHEIM STATEMENT

FROM AMB. SCALI USDEL PANAMA

1. SYG WALDHEIM MADE ELEVENTH HOUR DECISION TO ADDRESS SC AT OPENING OF MACTH 20 MORNING SESSION. MOST OF HIS 20 MINUTE STATEMENT WAS UNREMARKABLE PLUG FOR UN. TEXT OF PARAS RELATING TO CONAL ISSUES FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT. ONE ISSUE OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO THE STATES OF THE CONTINENT IS THE QUESTION OF THE PANAMA CANAL WHICH HAS BEEN MENTIONED HERE BY EVERY SPEAKER. THIS PROBLEM AWAITS A SOLUTION WHICH CAN ONLY BE BASED ON THE RESPECT FOR LAW AND THE SEARCH FOR JUSTICE. A SOLUTION WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE ENSHRINED IN THE CHARTER SUCH AS THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SOVEREIGN EQUALITY, THE OBLIGATION TO SETTLE ALL INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES BY PEACEFUL MEANS AND THE PRINCIPLE WHICH BY NOW HAS BECOME AN ACCEPTED COMMON STANDARD, NAMELY THAT ANY STATE IS ENTITLED TO PUT TO FULL USE AND FOR ITS OWN ACCOUNT ALL ITS NATURAL POTENTIALITIES. HOWEVER COMPLEX THE ISSUE IN QUESTION -- AND IT IS, INDEED, OF ENORMOUS COMPLEXITY AS THE DEBATE IN THIS CHAMBER HAS SHOWN AND AS THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY PROVES -- WE MUST DO OUR UTMOST TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A

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PEACEFUL AND JUST SOLUTION.

IN THIS ISSUE, WHICH IS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE NOT ONLY TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED AND NOT ONLY TO THE CONTINENT BUT ALSO TO THE WORLD AS A WHOLE, I WOULD STRONGLY APPEAL TO PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES TO SEEK A SOLUTION IN A SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONFIDENCE. I WOULD FURTHER URGE THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO SEEK AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD HELP THE PARTIES CONCERNED IN THEIR ENDEAVORS TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS TOWARDS A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS AS WELL AS THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS WHICH ARE STAKE.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY CONCERNED ARE FULLY AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD IS FOCUSSED ON THIS SESSION OF THE SC. LET US NOT DISAPPOINT THEIR EXPECTATIONS. END VERBATIM TEXT.

2. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD HOWISON TOLD HENNIG (WALDHEIM' S SPECIAL ASST) ON INSTRUCTION OF AMB SCALI THAT US DEL RECOGNIZED THAT SYG' S MOTIVES WERE GOOD, BUT FELT US SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSULTED BEFORE SYG HELD FORTH ON SUBJECT SO IMPORTANT TO US. SYG' S REMARKS WERE SUSCEPTIBLE OF MISINTERPRETATION AND MISUSE, AND WITHIN HOUR OF THEIR DELIVERY PANAMANIAN WERE IN FACT CITING THEM TENDENTIOUSLY. HENNIG HAD NOTHING IN PARTICULAR TO SAY IN RESPONSE.

3. AMB. SCHAUFELLE ALSO REGISTERED US DEL DISAPPROVAL WITH AUSTRIAN PERM REP JANKOWITSCH.

4. LATER, AT LUNCHEON AMB SCALI STRONGLY REGISTERED DISPLEASURE DIRECTLY TO WALDHEIM. SCALI TOLD SYG FIRMLY THAT IT WAS HIS DUTY TO CONSULT WITH US IN ADVANCE BEFORE TAKING ACTION ON MATTER OF DIRECT IMPORTANCE TO US. WALDHEIM ACCEPTED THIS CRITICISM AND LATER REPORTED HE INSISTED TO BOYD THAT HE SHOULD NOT BE QUOTED AGAIN BY PANAMANIAN. BOYD PROMISED NOT TO REFER TO STATEMENT AGAIN, AND WE SHALL SEE HOW WELL HE REMEMBERS HIS PROMISE.
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5. I DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO CURE
WALDHEIM OF HIS EXCESSIVE SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR
SOLVING OTHER PEOPLE' S PROBLEMS. MEANTIME I SEE
NO ALTERNATIVE TO FIRMLY SETTING HIM STRAIGHT WHEN HE
ERRS.
SAYRE

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